

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

Claim 26-29, 31-32, 36, 38-39, and 41-42 have been amended herein.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's designation of claims 43-46 as being directed to allowable subject matter.

III. Remarks Regarding the Claim Objections

The dependency of claims 27-29, 31-32, 36, 38-39, and 41-42 have been amended to correct the informality of these claims referring to "claim 1" instead of referring to "claim 26."

The amendment of claim 26 addresses the Examiner's antecedent objection to claims 27 and 28.

IV. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 26 and 29-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,038,023 issued to Saliga (hereinafter "Saliga"). Applicant respectfully traverses on the basis of the amended claims.

A prima facie case of obviousness requires a showing that all claim limitations be taught or suggested by the art. *See* MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE § 2143.03. Applicant respectfully submits Saliga fails to form a proper basis for a prima facie case of obviousness, because it fails to teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention and thus fails to yield an invention in the scope of Applicant's claims.

In particular, Saliga fails to disclose "an electronic memory device" as recited in amended claim 26. Saliga instead teaches a system using optical bar codes for monitoring the use of keys. Thus, Saliga fails to teach each and every limitation recited in claim 26 and therefore fails to teach Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as to claim 26 and as to claims 29-42 dependent thereon.



CONCLUSION

Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0096 for any deficiency of fees.

The practitioner, named below, is authorized to file correspondence in the above-identified application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a).

If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible. A prompt examination and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date: July 11, 2007

Renee Treider